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ABSTRACT

The Fall 1979 grade point averages (GPA's) of students enrolled in the upper divisions of Florida's universities were obtained and analyzed to: (1) determine how well community college transfer students with an associate degree (AA) performed at the university; (2) ascertain how well transfer students without an AA performed; and (3) compare the academic performance of the transfer students with that of continuing native students. Although the State University System (SUS) data tapes do not identify all community college transfers, certain conclusions can be drawn. Community college transfer students with AA degrees appeared to do as well as the university native students; however, community college students who transferred without AA degrees had lower GPA's than the native or AA-holding students. The percentage of native students earning a GPA below 2.0 was 21.49%; the percentage earning between 2.0 and 2.99 was 33.03%. By comparison, 22.42% of the transfer students with AA degrees and 25.29% of the transfer students without AA degrees earned a GPA below 2.0; and 31.44% of the AA-holding transfer students and 32.78% of the transfer students without AA degrees earned a GPA between 2.0 and 2.99. The study report provides charts illustrating these findings and data tables which show the number and percentage of students in various GPA ranges by community college attended. (AYC)

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Community College Student Performance in Florida Universities

Prepared by the
Program and Quality Committee
of the
State Community College Coordinating Board
for Presentation to the Board

May 1, 1981

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JC 810 425

Community College Student
Performance in Florida Universities

The following information indicates how well community college students perform in the upper divisions of Florida's universities as measured by grade point averages earned fall term, 1979, by those students who entered the universities prior to that term. The grade point averages of university native (as opposed to transfer) students the same term are provided for comparison. The university transfer students from community colleges are separated into those who earned the associate in arts degree at a community college and those who transferred before earning the associate in arts degree.

The most understood and useful measure of university performance is grades. Even under suspicion of grade inflation, comparison of transfer student performance with native student performance is appropriate. Therefore, grade point average is the measure used herein.

This introduction is followed by a discussion of data problems and recommendations so the reader will realize the limitations of the information. Then follows a discussion of the grade point averages with their display in graph and computer printout form.

Limitations in the Information

Data for this report were obtained from State University System (SUS) data tapes for fall term, 1979, and include grade point averages (GPA) for that term only. Therefore, the identification of transfer students is a function of the SUS reporting system. Not all community college transfer students are identified. The data tapes generally indicate the college or university last attended. If a community college student

with an AA degree entered a SUS institution and then transferred to another SUS institution, the classification as a community college transfer student is lost. Similar problems include improper reading of transcript information and delay or loss in recording the AA degree award.

If the grade point averages of community college transfer students are to be used as a measure of quality, other GPA data should be collected and analyzed. A system that would account for differences in the academic preparation of native university students and community college transfer students has been proposed. The use of raw data without adjusting for preparation as in this report, can be improved by accessing SUS tapes with listings of AA degree students now provided in the community college system follow-up program. Cumulative GPA and cumulative GPA at graduation could provide further insight into the performance of transfers.

Discussion of the Information

The following graph compares university native students with community college transfer students who have received the AA degree and with community college transfer students who transferred without completing AA degree requirements. The comparison is on the basis of grade point averages below 2.0 and grade point averages 2.0 and above for the fall term, 1979, for students who entered the SUS prior to that term. The GPA given is for the fall term rather than cumulative.

GPA below 2.0. The percent of native students in this category is 21.49. The percent of community college transfer students with AA degrees is 22.42, and the percent for those without AA degrees is 25.29.

GPA 2.0 and above. The percent of native students in this category is 78.51. The percent of community college transfer students with AA degrees is 77.58, and the percent for those without AA degrees is 74.71.

Community college transfer students with AA degrees appear to do as well as the university native students on the basis that there is less than a percentage point difference (.93) between the two groups, despite the selective admissions process used by the state universities. However, community college students who transfer without AA degrees do less well by comparison. The percentage difference is 3.8.

GPA COMPARISON
Native SUS and Community College Transfer Students

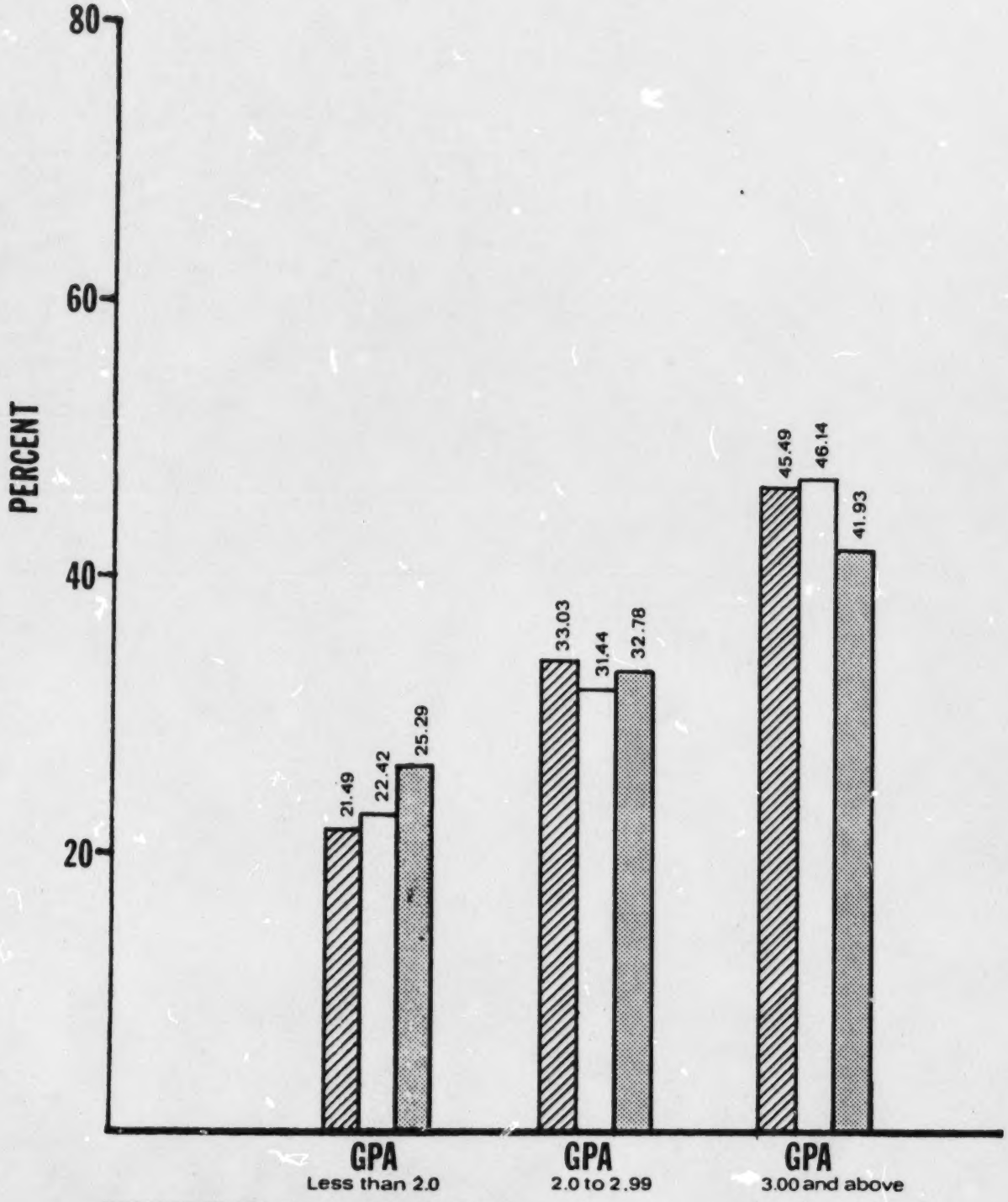
The next graph compares the same three groups on the same dimension of GPA below 2.0 (as described in the first graph), but divides the GPA 2.0 and above into two categories, 2.0 to 2.99 and 3.0 and above.

GPA 2.0 - 2.99. The percent of native students in this category is 33.03. The percent of community college transfer students with AA degrees is 31.44, and the percent for those without AA degrees is 32.78.

GPA 3.0 and above. The percent of native students in this category is 45.49. The percent of community college transfer students with AA degrees is 46.14, and the percent for those without AA degrees is 41.43.

GPA COMPARISON

Native SUS and Community College Transfer Students



FLORIDA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

GRADE POINT AVERAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR
UPPER DIVISION NATIVE STUDENTS
FALL QUARTER 1979

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	GPA LESS THAN 1.0	GPA 1.0-1.99	GPA 2.0-2.99	GPA 3.0-3.49	GPA 3.5-3.79	GPA GREATER THAN 3.8	TOTAL	GPA LESS THAN 2.0	GPA GREATER THAN 3.5
FAMU	143	242	426	173	51	58	1,093	385	109
PCT	13.08	22.14	38.98	15.83	4.67	5.31	100.00	35.22	9.97
FAU	15	13	60	34	20	21	163	28	41
PCT	9.20	7.98	36.81	20.86	12.27	12.88	100.00	17.18	25.15
FIU									
PCT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FSU	295	297	863	659	332	265	2,711	592	597
PCT	10.88	10.96	31.83	24.31	12.25	9.77	100.00	21.84	22.02
UCF	124	141	467	392	174	170	1,468	265	344
PCT	8.45	9.60	31.81	26.70	11.85	11.58	100.00	18.05	23.43
UF	487	598	1,985	1,286	790	533	5,679	1,085	1,323
PCT	8.58	10.53	34.95	22.64	13.91	9.39	100.00	19.11	23.30
UNF									
PCT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
USF	399	209	754	685	293	336	2,676	608	629
PCT	14.91	7.81	28.18	25.60	10.95	12.56	100.00	22.72	23.51
UWF									
PCT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	1,463	1,500	4,555	3,229	1,660	1,383	13,790	2,963	3,043
PCT	10.61	10.88	33.03	23.42	12.04	10.03	100.00	21.49	22.07

FLORIDA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

GRADE POINT AVERAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS WITH AN AA DEGREE
ENTERING THE SUS PRIOR TO THIS TERM
FALL QUARTER 1979
SYSTEM TOTAL

	GPA LESS THAN 1.0	GPA 1.0-1.99	GPA 2.0-2.99	GPA 3.0-3.49	GPA 3.5-3.79	GPA GREATER THAN 3.8	TOTAL	GPA LESS THAN 2.0	GPA GREATER THAN 3.5
FAMU	1	6	35	20	8	7	77	7	15
PCT	1.30	7.79	45.45	25.97	10.39	9.09	100.00	9.09	19.48
FAU	194	89	376	326	98	126	1,209	283	224
PCT	16.05	7.36	31.10	26.96	8.11	10.42	100.00	23.41	18.53
FIU	235	159	431	448	186	245	1,704	394	431
PCT	13.79	9.33	25.29	26.29	10.92	14.38	100.00	23.12	25.29
FSU	313	275	771	518	252	156	2,285	588	408
PCT	13.70	12.04	33.74	22.67	11.03	6.83	100.00	25.73	17.86
UCF	153	161	537	437	191	185	1,664	314	376
PCT	9.19	9.68	32.27	26.26	11.48	11.12	100.00	18.87	22.60
UF	197	274	694	404	205	142	1,916	471	347
PCT	10.28	14.30	36.22	21.09	10.70	7.41	100.00	24.58	18.11
UNF	100	65	220	236	90	126	837	165	216
PCT	11.95	7.77	26.28	28.20	10.75	15.05	100.00	19.71	25.81
USF	261	250	803	649	256	341	2,560	511	597
PCT	10.20	9.77	31.37	25.35	10.00	13.32	100.00	19.96	23.32
UWF	201	93	378	310	155	113	1,250	294	268
PCT	16.08	7.44	30.24	24.80	12.40	9.04	100.00	23.52	21.44
TOTAL	1,655	1,372	4,245	3,348	1,441	1,441	13,502	3,027	2,882
PCT	12.26	10.16	31.44	24.80	10.67	10.67	100.00	22.42	21.34

FLORIDA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

GRADE POINT AVERAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS WITHOUT AN AA DEGREE
ENTERING THE SUS PRIOR TO THIS TERM
FALL QUARTER 1979
SYSTEM TOTAL

	GPA LESS THAN 1.0	GPA 1.0-1.99	GPA 2.0-2.99	GPA 3.0-3.49	GPA 3.5-3.79	GPA GREATER THAN 3.8	TOTAL	GPA LESS THAN 2.0	GPA GREATER THAN 3.5
FAMU	11	19	34	11	1	4	80	30	5
PCT	13.75	23.75	42.50	13.75	1.25	5.00	100.00	37.50	6.25
FAU	137	53	213	186	62	100	751	190	162
PCT	18.24	7.06	28.36	24.77	8.26	13.32	100.00	25.30	21.57
FIU	97	64	179	146	61	73	620	161	134
PCT	15.65	10.32	28.87	23.55	9.84	11.77	100.00	25.97	21.61
FSU	90	117	272	207	72	66	824	207	138
PCT	10.92	14.20	33.01	25.12	8.74	8.01	100.00	25.12	16.75
UCF	40	39	151	82	53	40	405	79	93
PCT	9.88	9.63	37.28	20.25	13.09	9.88	100.00	19.51	22.96
UF	201	299	682	375	159	101	1,817	500	260
PCT	11.06	16.46	37.53	20.64	8.75	5.56	100.00	27.52	14.31
UNF	45	21	71	66	23	48	274	66	71
PCT	16.42	7.66	25.91	24.09	8.39	17.52	100.00	24.09	25.91
USF	86	73	213	181	66	89	708	159	155
PCT	12.15	10.31	30.08	25.56	9.32	12.57	100.00	22.46	21.89
UWF	68	24	108	94	47	47	388	92	94
PCT	17.53	6.19	27.84	24.23	12.11	12.11	100.00	23.71	24.23
TOTAL	775	709	1,923	1,348	544	568	5,867	1,484	1,112
PCT	13.21	12.08	32.78	22.98	9.27	9.68	100.00	25.29	18.95

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